(c) and (d) To promote and popularise coconut products, the steps taken by the Coconut Development Board are:

(i) Seven sales counters have been opened in major cities to create awar-ness among people about various coconut products and to supply quality products;

(ii) Financial assistance is provided for adopting new technologies in coconut product diversification and by-pro duct utilisation, setting up desicated coconut units and facilities for primary processing of coconuts into copra.

(iii) National seminar on processing and marketing with emphasis on product diversification of coconut was held at Bangalore during 1993-94, followed by State level seminars, one each in Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu during 1994-95.

Joint Research of Rice Research Institute and IRRI

4889. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICUL-, TURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Rice Research Institutes have conducted any joint research with IRRI, Manila to introduce any rice strains in suitable areas of Andhra Pradesh;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any schedule has been set up for introduction of new high yielding rice strains in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details of the schedule?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir, Indian Council of Agricultural Research is collaborating with IRRI, Manila for exchange of germplasm and elite varieties for being adapted to specific conditions of rice growing in different parts of India. Varieties like IR 64 and IR 36 were tried and popularised in Andhra Pradesh as well through such collaborative efforts. Efforts are being made to popularise hybrid rice using diverse male steril lines received through IRRI sources in Andhra Pradesh.

(c) and (d) The ICAR-IRRI workplan for collaborative research on rice is being reviewed every year and work on crop improvement, crop management and crop protection is progressing as per plan of work.

Encouragement to apiculture in Andhra Pradesh

4890. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(.a) whether Government have encouraged Apiculture in Andhra Pradesh;

(b\ whether it is a fact that Telengana area of Andhra Pradesh has great potential for honey production;

(c) the steps taken to propagate Api culture in Andhra Pradesh in 1994-95; and

(d) the new initiatives proposed in 1995-P6 in propagating Apiculture ;in Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) The Government of India have sanctioned) a central sector scheme in October, 1994 for the development of bee keeping for improving crop productivity in 8th plan with a total outlay of Rs. 18.87 crores covering all the States & UTs including Andhra Pradesh. Under the scheme Andhra Pradesh has been provided assistance for production and distribution of bee colonies and strengthening training facilities during 1994-95. Apart from this, the ICAR is providing research support for promotion of bee keeping in the State through AICRP on Honey bee with a centre at Vijayarai, West Godavari District. The